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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
UNCLASSIFIED

International Communication Agency

Press and Publications Service

TRANSMITTAL SLIP

Date: JUNE 18, 1979

TO
USICA Buenos Aires

REFERENCE
None

Attached ~~story~~ on awarding of Hubert Humphrey Prize to Jacobo Timerman by Anti Defamation League is for your information and possible use at your discretion.

PGM/PPL Burks/Davis

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~~L. Contreras R~~
~~2. DCM~~
3. W. Hallman
~~4. JCole~~
5. J Scott

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Frank Stanton, chairman of the Humphrey Prize Advisory Committee on Nominations, pointed out that more than 600 journalists and writers today are victims of repressive government action in some 55 countries. Nearly 500 are imprisoned or, as in the case of the Soviet Union, in psychiatric institutions.

"Argentina, however, is the most flagrant violator," Stanton said, "with 119 cases, that we know about, either imprisoned, under house arrest, or in forced exile.

"Their names comprise a literal 'Who's Who' of Argentina's finest journalists, the most prominent being Mr. Timerman."

Founder of two weekly magazines and the independent newspaper La Opinion, Timerman was dragged from his home by a group of armed men on the morning of April 15, 1977. He spent the next year in prison though no charge has been -- or ever has been -- brought against him. Intermittently, he was tortured by his captors in an effort to establish a link with guerrillas.

"So far as anyone can determine," said Stanton, "his only crime is that he is an honest newspaperman who shocked and offended many people in important circles in Buenos Aires."

(more)

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EPSTEIN went on to say that he could find no parallel in history. He pointed out that Peter Zenger "was permitted to plead his case and defend his right to press freedom," and even "Dreyfus was brought to trial, and though falsely convicted, was able to defend himself . . ."

[redacted] the Supreme Court of [redacted] has decreed that there is no basis in law, no charges have been presented, and there are no grounds for detaining him. The anti-Semitism has not come out into the open, but it lurks in the shadow behind the official silence."

Hector Timerman said that although Argentinian authorities "have been unable to explain the reasons" for his father's arrest and their refusal to obey the order for his release issued by the Supreme Court of Justice, there is "a conspicuous reason."

This reason emerged, according to Mr. Timerman, "during frightful questioning" when his father was asked "about his links with the Elders of Zion and his activity in behalf of projects for world dominance by Jews."

He went on to say that "only in a country wherein anti-Semitism is well rooted can official enquirers pose such unheard of questions."

He pointed out that Jacobo Timerman's activity as a representative of the Argentine Jewish community and as founder and editor was "open and well known" but that he could not go "unpunished" because at all times he "defended the interests of the Jewish community and waged war against manifestations of anti-Semitism.

"Such an attitude," Hector Timerman said, "requires unique daring in the climate of prejudice and anti-Jewish hostility endured in Argentina."

He went on to say that "Jacobo Timerman is paying the high, the painful, price for such an attitude, both as a man and as a Jew."

In his father's name, he thanked the League for bestowing the Humphrey award upon Jacobo Timerman "as a symbol of persecuted and discriminated men and as a protest against the conspicuous violation of human rights in Argentina."

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New York -- "Hubert Humphrey once again defends a man persecuted for his struggle for freedom." So stated Jacobo Timerman, the distinguished Argentine journalist upon being informed that he had been awarded the 1979 Hubert H. Humphrey Freedom Prize of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of B'Nai B'rith.

Jacobo Timerman has been called the "Dreyfus of Latin America" because of his imprisonment for undisclosed crimes by Argentine authorities. His son, Hector Timerman, now a resident of Israel, accepted the prize in New York June 17 / on behalf of his father who remains under house arrest in Argentina. Hector Timerman conveyed his father's reaction upon being told he had been given the honor.

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TIMERMAN FILE

New York -- "Hubert Humphrey once again defends a man persecuted for his struggle for freedom." So stated Jacobo Timerman, the distinguished Argentine [redacted] journalist upon being informed that he had been awarded the 1979 Hubert H. [redacted] Humphrey Freedom Prize of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of B'Nai B'rith.

Jacobo Timerman has been called the "Dreyfus of Latin America" because of his imprisonment for undisclosed crimes by Argentine authorities. His son, Hector Timerman, now a resident of Israel, accepted the prize in New York June 17 / on behalf of his [redacted] father who remains under house arrest in Argentina. Hector Timerman conveyed his father's reaction upon being told he had been given the honor.

The presentation was made by Benjamin R. Epstein, executive vice president of the ADL Foundation, at the 66th annual national commission meeting of the League [redacted].

Mr. Epstein said that "although his person is incarcerated in Argentina, his name and fame have crossed international borders."

Continuing, he said THAT TIMERMAN [redacted] "is one of 119 Argentine journalists -- the best and brightest of the country's newspapermen -- who have been either imprisoned, placed under house arrest, or forced into exile."

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Nonetheless, Timerman was not released. After the year in prison, he was transferred to house arrest and stripped of his civil rights. The junta refuses to release him or to permit him to leave the country. Within recent weeks, the junta announced confiscation of his newspaper and other properties.

"In expressing our profound concern for the safety and survival of this distinguished journalist," Stanton declared, "we share the anxiety of such organizations as the Inter-American Press Association, Amnesty International, the American Newspaper Publishers Association and International PEN. Mr. Timerman is a worldwide symbol of the oppression of the free press in Argentina, and we believe that by awarding him the Hubert H. Humphrey Freedom Prize, the Anti-Defamation League's highest award with respect to press safeguards, we may signal the plight of hundreds of other journalists and writers who share Mr. Timerman's fate."

In addition to Stanton, other members of the Advisory Committee are Elie Abel, Stanford University School of Journalism; Paul A. Freund, professor emeritus, Harvard Law School; John W. Gardner, former U.S. Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare; John R. Everett, president of The New School for Social Research, and Franklin D. Murphy, chairman of the Times-Mirror Corporation.

On May 25, 1979, Stanton sent a letter to the President of Argentina, Jorge Rafael Videla, requesting permission for Timerman to come to New York to receive the award. No reply has been received. (A copy of the letter is attached)

Maxwell E. Greenberg, national chairman of ADL, [redacted] invited Timerman's son, Hector, 25, who lives in Israel with his two brothers, to fly to New York to accept the award for his father. ITEM FINKE 6/18/79

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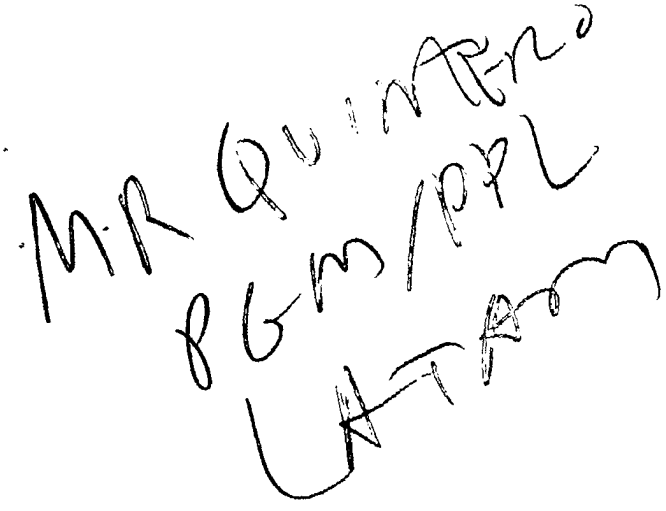

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